



Mika's Travels



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Chapter 1 by Jamie Shattuck

Once upon a time there was a boy named Mika. He was walking to town with his friend Cole. Then they were attacked by flying dragons. They sliced Cole in the arm and he dropped to the floor. Mika threw his pack at the dragons and they flew away. He ran to Cole's side. The wound turns red and starts steaming. "Seek out... the Wise... Wizard." He passes out.

Mika look off into the horizon. "I will save you Cole! If it is the last thing I do!" He drags Cole home and begins his journey to the Great Mountains of the North. He packed his few belongings, said farewell to his family.

He began the long and perilous journey to find the Wise Wizard. He realized that he had no food. He stopped at a peddler's cart after a while. He found his items and went to the peddler and there, by the end of the cart was an information booklet about the Wise Wizard. He picked it up and added it to his pile of provisions.

The old peddler saw the booklet, "You seek the Wise Wizard? Do you know the dangers that await you on this journey?" He questioned. "Do you know of the Great Snake? The Evil Queen Cora Lane? The dreaded guard of the Wizard, Paul Losse?" Mika sensed an air of urgency and fright in the old man's voice. Something seemed familiar about him.

"Have I met you before?" He asked. He looked at his name tag, Lewis it read. It couldn't be who he thought it was.

"You might have read about me in history class. My name is Town. Lewis Town, the original guard of the Wise Wizard. My twin Clark pretended to be me one day and cursed Paul Losse. For his foolishness we were exiled to live next to each other but we are not able to communicate with each other, there is a boundary separating us, and I was discharged from

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And with that, Mika was on his way. The first obstacle was the Great Snake. He caught rides with farmers, hopped trains and made his way north. Gigantic hills began to show in the distance. He knew he was getting close to the lair of the Snake.

The land stretched out in front of him. While he walked over the flat land, he picked handfuls of grass. When he got closer to the lair, it was a few miles away, he sat down and wove the grass into a large basket, just as Lewis instructed. As soon as he finished he continued onto the lair. He gazed into the yawning mouth of the cave, home of the Great Snake. Before he could think of what he would do next, a very long, slender snake emerged. He coiled himself, resembling a spring. When fully coiled he could look straight into Mika's eye's.

"What hassssss brought you to my domain? No matter your ansssssssswer, I am ssssssstill going to kill you. But humor me." The Snake's voice sounded like water that was thrown onto a hot stove.

Being careful not to look into his eyes, and not to show any emotion, Mika answered, "I have come to seek the assistance of the Wise Wizard. I have brought a gift for you, hoping to convince you to let me pass." He presented the snake with the basket. "See, it is for you to sleep in." The snake cautiously slithered into the basket and arranged himself to get comfortable.

"That is not all sir, I also offer my own pair of glasses, for I have heard that you, of only one flaw, are unable to read the pages of the many books you have collected. But with these, you will be able to read."

As the snake swayed back and forth, Mika pretended to wait for him to still himself. The bright summer sun shone through the lenses and began to burn the basket. "Sir, can you not hold your head still so that I may present you with my gift?" The snake tried his best but he could not. Just then the basket caught fire. The flames quickly engulfed the snake. And just as Lewis had said, all that was left were the fangs. He picked them up, careful to not touch the point. He found a thick branch and attached the fangs to it to make a poisonous club. He picked up his glasses and was on his way.

He climbed the hills and found himself in the town of Cow Moss. He walked along the salt pool. He heard a splash and a mermaid came up to him. Even though her mouth didn't move he heard a voice, the mermaid. Are you the slayer of the Great Snake? That was my brother! You must

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As soon as the water disappeared, the figures floated down to Mika, they looked like matching blue shadows, no faces just sheer outlines. One of them spoke. "I am the Dutch Sorcerer, and this is my brother. We appreciate you destroying the Great Snake, which weakened the mermaid enough for us to destroy her as well. Our people will forever be in your debt. As a reward, we have an elixir for you to keep focused and have enough energy to finish your journey. Check your pack and you will find an ever full canteen."

Our brave adventurer soon made it to the Log Yard. There sat a girl in a large wooden cage, there were paintings on the back and side walls, the bars on the front were painted with various designs. She didn't even notice Mika until he started hitting the bars with his club.

She calmly turned around and stared at him. "Try the pine cones," she said to him after a while. "They used them to grow the trees when the mill was in use. They grow in a matter of seconds. Plant one under the cage and it will break the floor. But why do you want to free me?" She asked as he looked for the pine cones.

"Because I know the truth about you," he said. He followed her directions and soon she was free.

They soon came upon the palace of the Evil Queen Cora Lane. It was dark and run down.

"Follow me, we must find the queen and Paul Losse. Split up, you go to the dungeon and I'll find the queen. I'm sure I can convince her."

The witch made her way to the throne room and found the queen sitting with a smile on her face like she was expecting her. "My dear! How is your mother, my dear sister?" She asked even though she knew the answer. "She is in a much better state than when you were around... She and my father's grave give them the respect they deserve." She walked steadily towards the throne of her aunt. She knew her well, she remembered what happened. Her aunt was in pain. Her heart had been broken, her sister had not let her marry who she loved. Instead she employed him as one of the guards, the same one who guarded the wizard, Paul Losse.

"Please Aunt, go to him, and break him of this awful spell. Be happy together." The queen's face softened. "It has been a curse all along? How had I not known?" She fled to the dungeon where she found Paul in a battle against our dear hero. She put a hand on the guard's shoulder and he stopped.

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and collect a tear from the Queen, love. Friendship, bravery, and love are the ingredients to the cure. Place it on his wounds.

Mika and the girl went back to his home and did as told. Cole was better by the next morning. The girl went on to rule her aunt's kingdom while she married Paul. And Mika was a hero. And they all lived happily ever after. The end.

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